

Message Text

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BELGRADE FOR USDELCSCE

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ECE, OVIP, CSCE, ENRG, SENV, EEWT

SUBJECT:VISIT OF ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK

REF: STATE 247028

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. JANEZ STANOVNIK, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
OF THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE), CONFERRED
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WITH USG OFFICIALS OCTOBER 17 ON WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES,
MANY RELATING TO BELGRADE CONFERENCE AND CSCE BASKET II.
STANOVNIK RECEIVED PRAISE FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARIES VEST
(EUR) AND MAYNES (IO) FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND FOR ON-GOING
WORK WITHIN THE ECE. TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED PROPOSAL
FOR EAST-WEST ENERGY CONFERENCE (US VIEWS CONVEYED BY
EUR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE); EXPLORATORY WORK

CONCERNING POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE ENVIRONMENT (WITH OES DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LINDSEY GRANT); EAST-WEST TRADE ISSUES (WITH EB DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARRACLOUGH); FUTURE OF ECE IN RELATION TO NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES (WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES); AND GENERAL URBAN AND HOUSING QUESTIONS, WITH SECRETARY HARRIS AND SENIOR STAFF AT HUD. STANOVNIK EXPRESSED PLEASURE BOTH WITH SCOPE AND SUBSTANCE OF US VIEWS INCLUDING THOSE ON ENERGY CONFERENCE PROPOSAL. DETAILS PROVIDED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. ENERGY CONFERENCE. VINE CONFIRMED THAT ENERGY CONFERENCE PROPOSAL, ORIGINALLY ADVANCED BY BREZHNEV, WAS DISCUSSED BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT DURING LATTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN JULY. HE STRESSED THAT US NOW VIEWS THIS PROPOSAL "WITH AN OPEN MIND", RECOGNIZING, OF COURSE, THAT WE WOULD NOT WANT SUCH A CONFERENCE TO DUPLICATE OR UNDERCUT WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY IN IEA OR IAEA. HE INDICATED THAT IMPORTANT FACTOR IN OUR CONSIDERATION WILL BE DEVELOPMENTS AT BELGRADE CONFERENCE. SHOULD A CONSENSUS DEVELOP AT BELGRADE, VINE ASSURED STANOVNIK, "THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT ECE WOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE VEHICLE FOR ANY SUCH CONFERENCE."

3. STANOVNIK, IN COURSE OF THE DAY, MADE VARIOUS COMMENTS ON ENERGY CONFERENCE PROPOSAL. HE BELIEVES THAT WESTERN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPPOSITION "IS BEGINNING TO MELT". HE OBSERVED THAT ANY RATIONAL EFFORT TO PLAN ENERGY FUTURE OF ECE REGION (OR OF WEST ALONE) MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ENERGY SITUATION IN THE EAST. HE BELIEVES THAT SOVIETS ARE PRINCIPALLY INTERESTED IN INCREASED FLOW OF TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCING. THIS IMPLIES A GREATER WESTERN COMMITMENT TO THE EXPLORATION OF USSR'S RATHER EXPENSIVE ENERGY RESOURCES AND GREATER SOVIET COMMITMENT TO ENTER INTO LONG TERM ENERGY ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE WEST. HE IS SEEKING (WITH EXAMPLE OF ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE IN MIND, IN PARTICULAR TOPIC OF TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION) CENTRAL AGENDA ITEM WHICH COULD LEAD TO PRACTICAL STEPS IN NEAR FUTURE. CURRENT STATE OF HIS THINKING IS THAT TOPIC OF ENERGY PROSPECTS, INCLUDING SUPPLIES FROM THE EAST, WOULD BE APPROPRIATE SUBJECT MATTER, AS WELL AS INTERCONNECTION (PIPELINES, POWER GRID, ETC.), AND POSSIBLY COOPERATION IN ATOMIC ENERGY AND R & D IN NEW ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES; BUT THAT CONFERENCE MUST AVOID CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES SUCH AS OIL PRICE (I.E. ISSUES WHICH AFFECT BARGAINING POWER OF MAJOR ENERGY PRODUCERS) WHICH HE FEARED WOULD BOG DOWN WORK OF CONFERENCE. HE INTENDS TO TELL THE SOVIETS DURING HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW IN DECEMBER THAT IN ORDER TO IMPROVE

CLIMATE FOR AN ENERGY CONFERENCE, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THEM TO MORE SPECIFICALLY SPELL OUT THEIR IDEAS ON SUBJECT MATTER TO BE COVERED, TO SHOW GREATER WILLINGNESS TO SHARE INFORMATION, AND TO PARTICIPATE IN ON-GOING ECE ENERGY ACTIVITIES, ON WHICH SOVIET RECORD HAS BEEN SPOTTY.

4. HIGH-LEVEL ENVIRONMENT MEETING. STANOVNIK INTENDS TO PRESENT TWO REPORTS TO ECE 33RD SESSION--ONE ON POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS, THE OTHER ON MODALITIES AND ORGANIZATION-- BOTH IN FORM OF OPTIONS RATHER THAN RECOMMENDATIONS. HE ANTICIPATES SESSION WILL APPROVE CONFERENCE WITH ONLY ONE OR TWO TOPICS ON AGENDA. SECOND REPORT WILL DEAL WITH LOCATION (GENEVA OR OTHER), RULES OF PROCEDURE, PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (ECE SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORS OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHER), AND FINANCES. ON LAST POINT, STANOVNIK BELIEVES THAT WEEK-LONG CONFERENCE IN GENEVA COULD BE FINANCED OUT OF CURRENT APPROPRIATIONS, BUT LONGER MEETING WOULD REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FUNDS. STANOVNIK FORESEES ADEQUATE PREPARATION REQUIRING BETWEEN ONE AND TWO YEARS; FAVORS PREPARATORY WORK RESULTING IN A VERY CLEAR DOCUMENT WITH POSSIBLE CONCRETE RESULTS, WHICH WOULD BE CONSIDERED AT THE CONFERENCE; AND CONSIDERS IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO EXCLUDE WEST BERLIN ISSUE (FRG ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE) FROM CONFERENCE. HE WILL MAKE THESE POINTS TO SOVIETS IN DECEMBER. GRANT SUGGESTED STANOVNIK REMIND SOVIETS THAT US INTERESTED IN CONFERENCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, NOT POLITICAL, REASONS AND THUS NOT LIKELY CONTINUE VIEW IDEA POSITIVELY IF POLITICAL ISSUES LIKELY TO DOMINATE. STANOVNIK SAID THIS WAS HELPFUL SUGGESTION.

5. STANOVNIK EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT WEST HAD REACTED NEGATIVELY TO TOPIC OF RIVER BASINS AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT (IN CONNECTION WITH DANUBE AND BLACK SEA) AS POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEM. HE THOUGHT THAT THIS TOPIC, WHICH SOVIETS HAVE PREVIOUSLY REFUSED TO DISCUSS IN ECE, OPENED UP SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WEST TO (A) UNDERLINE "OPEN" CHARACTER OF BLACK SEA, AS DESIRED BY TURKEY AND ROMANIA, AND (B) DILUTE PRESENT DOMINANT SOVIET ROLE IN DANUBE COMMISSION. GRANT VOLUNTEERED THAT SUBJECT MIGHT APPROPRIATELY BE TAKEN UP AT ANOTHER OCCASION, PERHAPS REGULAR MEETING OF SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORS, AND STANOVNIK SEEMED APPRECIATIVE.

6. TRADE ISSUES. STANOVNIK TOLD BARRACLOUGH THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO ANY POSTPONEMENT OF ECE TRADE COMMITTEE THIS YEAR, DESPITE SUGGESTIONS THAT TIMING CONFLICTS WITH DISCUSSIONS OF CSCE BASKET II IN BELGRADE. HE TOOK AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UPBEAT VIEW OF PROPOSED STUDY OF MULTILATERAL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM OF FOREIGN TRADE LAWS AND REGULATIONS, MAINTAINING THAT ECE SECRETARIAT COULD HANDLE VOLUME OF WORK REQUIRED AND THAT TRIAL RUN NOW AGREED TO WOULD HELP INDICATE HOW BEST TO MEET THE NEEDS BOTH OF PRIVATE FIRMS AND PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. HE ALSO ADVOCATED A MULTILATERAL FUND TO FINANCE INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AND A BUSINESS INFORMATION CENTER IN THE ECE. STANOVNIK EXPRESSED SOME APPREHENSION CONCERNING THE "RAPPROACHMENT" BETWEEN THE EC AND CEMA, WHICH APPEARS TO INVOLVE DUPLICATION OF WORK (E.G. STATISTICS, ENVIRONMENT) ALREADY UNDERWAY IN THE ECE.

7. NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. RESPONDING TO A QUESTION FROM MAYNES, STANOVNIK DECLARED THAT ECE "CANNOT IN FUTURE BE A CLOSED CLUB OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES". HE FAVORS "HORIZONTAL LINKING" OF REGIONAL COMMISSIONS AS ONE APPROACH TO NORTH-SOUTH COOPERATION, BUT ADMITTED THAT ATTEMPT TO EXPAND ECE WORK IN MEDITERRANEAN AREA HAD BROUGHT ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTIES IN CONNECTION WITH ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT ECE SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISORS MIGHT ADOPT A "LESS EGOCENTRIC APPROACH" IN THE FUTURE BY GIVING GREATER CONSIDERATION TO THE NEEDS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MAYNES AGREED THIS COULD BE HELPFUL, BUT WOULD NOT WISH TO CURTAIL PRESENT USEFUL ECE WORK IN EAST-WEST AREA. VANCE

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